

Message Text

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SUBJ: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER
BIDS FAREWELL DURING FEBRUARY PLENARY SESSION

1. SUMMARY: IN A FAREWELL PRESS CONFERENCE, FEBRUARY 15, IN STRASBOURG, MRS. MARIE THERESE GOUTMANN, LEADER OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST GROUP IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP), WHO IS TO BE REPLACED BY JACQUES EBERHARD, RE-ITERATED THE COMMUNIST STAND TOWARD THE EC, DENOUNCED THE COMMUNITY'S SHORTCOMINGS AND CHARACTERIZED HER PARTY AS THE ONLY ONE GENUINELY FIGHTING FOR WORKERS RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

2. MRS. GOUTMANN ANNOUNCED TO THE EP PRESS CORPS THAT SHE WAS LEAVING THE PARLIAMENT BECAUSE HER MANY DUTIES (PRESIDENT OF THE COMMUNIST GROUP IN THE FRENCH SENATE, MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AND MAYOR OF NOISY-LE-GRAND) PREVENTED HER FROM EFFECTIVELY CARRYING OUT HER RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE EP. LACK OF INTEREST IN EUROPEAN QUESTIONS WAS NOT THE REASON, SHE SAID.

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3. NOTING THAT THE COMMUNIST STAND IN THE EP IS INSEPARABLE FROM THE STRUGGLE BEING WAGED BY THE PARTY IN FRANCE, GOUTMANN ALLEGED THAT HER PARTY WAS THE FIRST TO REVEAL THE CAUSES OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS (EXPLOITATION, UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION) AND TO AFFIRM THAT A SOLUTION COULD BE ACHIEVED ONLY THROUGH THE UNION

OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES FIGHTING AGAINST THE INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL FEUDAL SYSTEMS. SHE SAID THE COMMUNIST PARTY PROPOSES THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE PRINCIPAL GROUPS "LOOTING" FRANCE, THE TAXATION OF CAPITAL HOLDINGS AND LARGE FORTUNES, AND THE CONTROL OF CAPITAL MOVEMENTS. SHE REJECTED THE NOTION OF COORDINATING EC MEMBER STATE NATIONAL POLICIES TO BRING AN END TO THE ECONOMIC CRISIS, ARGUING THAT THE COMMON "PLANS" DEvised BY THE EC COMMISSION OR EC COUNCIL DID LITTLE TO HELP THE WORKER. SHE SAID HER PARTY IS THE TRUE DEFENDER OF WORKERS IN FRANCE AND THE COMMUNITY, AND HAS SOUGHT ON EVERY OCCASION TO PROMOTE PROGRAMS AIMED AT OVERCOMING THE INEQUITIES THEY HAVE HAD TO SUFFER. GOUTMANN DID NOT REJECT COOPERATION AMONG EC MEMBER STATES ALTOGETHER, BUT SHE MAINTAINED THAT THE NEW EUROPE ENVISAGED BY HER PARTY SHOULD BE BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, FREE FROM ASSOCIATION WITH POWER BLOCS.

4. GOUTMANN MAINTAINED THAT DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM FOR ALL IS A TOUCHSTONE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S PLATFORM. GOUTMANN CHARGED THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE THE ONLY ONES TO PROPOSE THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS, CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY DECISIONS, AND CONTROL OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES AS MEANS FOR REALIZING A COMMON PROGRAM FOR EUROPE. SHE DENIED THAT THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS HAVE REMAINED SILENT ON ISSUES RELATING TO UNCLASSIFIED

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CURTAILMENT OF DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, NOTING THAT HER PARTY HAS FREQUENTLY SPOKEN OUT WITHIN THE EP AGAINST SUCH ACTIONS WHEREVER THEY MAY OCCUR (SIC). SHE CASTIGATED THOSE EP POLITICAL GROUPS WHICH REMAINED SILENT WHEN INFRINGEMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OCCURRED IN THE US, CERTAIN COMMUNITY COUNTRIES AND IN THE COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS. SHE SAID THAT THE PARTY CONDEMNES THE REPEATED INTERVENTIONS OF ALL KINDS BY THE US AND THE FRG IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY ITALY AND FRANCE. REGARDING FRANCE, GOUTMANN SAID THAT THE DEFENSE OF HER COUNTRY'S POLITICAL INTERESTS CAN ONLY BE DONE WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION OF THE FRENCH PEOPLE. IN CONCLUSION, GOUTMANN SAID THAT THE POINTS SHE HAD MADE WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE AS GUIDELINES FOR THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY BOTH AT HOME AND WITHIN THE EP.

5. DURING THE SUBSEQUENT QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD, GOUTMANN REPORTEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES IN ATTITUDE BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND ITALIAN COMMUNISTS IN THE EP. SHE NOTED THAT THE POLICY OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS IS DEFINED IN ROME AND OF THE FRENCH

COMMUNISTS IN PARIS, THUS EUROCOMMUNISM IS NOT AN EMPTY
WORD. REGARDING THE FRENCH SOCIALISTS, SHE NOTED THAT
THEY DO NOT ALWAYS COMPLY IN THE EP WITH THE POSITIONS
LAID OUT IN THE COMMON PROGRAM OF THE LEFT IN FRANCE.
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